

each leg defines a first width adjacent the head and a second width greater than the first width at a location [spaced] rearwardly [from the head] of the void area.

18. (Three Times Amended) An artificial bait structure, comprising:

a head having a forward end and a rearward end; and

first and second legs extending rearwardly from the rearward end of

5 the head, wherein each leg defines an inner edge and an outer edge and terminates at a rearward end, and wherein the outer edge of each leg has a generally convex shape defining a substantially continuous arc between the rearward end of the leg and a location spaced forwardly therefrom, and wherein each leg defines a first width adjacent the head and a second width greater than
10 the first width at a location spaced rearwardly therefrom, and wherein the [head and the] inner edges of the legs are configured to define a void area having an open rearward portion forming a gap between the legs [having a first width at a forward location adjacent the head and a second width less than the first width at a location spaced rearwardly therefrom] and having a substantially smoothly
15 continuous closed forward end located rearwardly of the head.

26. (Three Times Amended) An artificial bait structure, comprising:

a head defining a forward end of the artificial bait structure and having a thickness; and

5 a pair of legs extending rearwardly from the head, wherein the legs are configured such that each leg defines an outer edge located laterally outwardly relative to the head and such that the legs define facing inner edges, wherein the legs have a thickness less than that of the head, and wherein each leg includes a forward portion which defines a first width adjacent the head and
10 a rearward portion which defines a second width greater than the first width [at a location spaced rearwardly therefrom], and wherein the forward portions of the legs define [leg] inner edges which diverge continuously and smoothly [curve] outwardly away from each other rearwardly of the head and which converge toward each other forwardly of the leg rearward portions, to define an opening
15 [therebetween].

29. (Twice Amended) An artificial bait structure, comprising:
a head having a forward end and a rearward end; and

[first and second legs] a rear section extending rearwardly from the rearward end of the head, wherein the rear section defines an opening having a closed forward end and an open rearward end, wherein the closed forward end of the opening is defined by a smooth, continuous edge, and wherein the rear section defines a pair of legs located on opposite sides of the opening, wherein each leg defines a forward end [interconnected with the head] and a rearward end spaced rearwardly from the forward end, wherein each leg, throughout at least a portion of its length rearwardly of its forward end, defines an increasing width in a forward-to-rearward direction such that at least a portion of each leg located toward the leg rearward end has a width greater than a portion of each leg located toward the leg forward end, wherein each leg defines a maximum width location rearwardly of the opening, and wherein the legs are separated from each other by the open rearward end of the opening [between a forward leg portion extending rearwardly from the head and a rearward leg portion extending forwardly from the leg rearward end, and wherein the head and the forward leg portions are configured to define an opening between the rearward end of the head and the maximum width locations of the legs].

31. (Amended) The artificial bait structure of claim 29, wherein each leg defines an inner edge and an outer edge, and wherein each leg inner edge defines an arcuate portion toward the forward end of the leg and a linear portion extending rearwardly from the arcuate portion, wherein the arcuate portion of the legs [cooperate to] define an edge of the [an] opening between the legs [adjacent the leg forward ends].

32. (Twice Amended) An artificial bait structure, comprising:
a head having a forward end and a rearward end; and

first and second legs extending rearwardly from the rearward end of the head, wherein each leg defines a forward end interconnected with the head and a rearward end spaced rearwardly from the forward end, wherein each leg defines an inner edge and an outer edge, and wherein the inner edge of each leg includes [an] a smooth and continuous arcuate outwardly curved portion toward the forward end of each leg and a linear portion extending rearwardly